

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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APRIL 14, 1947

Our Hemisphere Observes Pan American Day

Twenty-One Republics Are Taking Part in This Annual Ceremony

APRIL 14 is Pan American Day, and it is observed by all the nations of North and South America, except Canada, as the birthday of the Pan American Union. That organization, of which 21 Western Hemisphere republics are members, was established in 1890, and since then it has worked to foster friendly relations, to encourage trade, and to bring about closer cooperation throughout the Americas.

In keeping with the spirit of the day, this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER appears as a special number, directing attention to the New World nations, their people and their problems. The purpose is to promote a better understanding of our American neighbors.

The people of Mexico, the West Indies, Central America and South America speak languages derived from the Latin. They were founded by "Latin" nations of Europe, and have many cultural ties with their mother countries. All but two were founded by Spain—Haiti was colonized by France and Brazil by Portugal.

Total Population

The 20 Latin American countries have a combined population almost the same as that of the United States, though their area is much greater than ours. These nations are alike in many ways, as can be seen by reading the descriptive sketches of the different countries in this paper.

Very noticeable is the fact that most of the Latin American countries are mountainous. Beneath the rough surface of the mountains and foothills are rich mineral deposits which, when fully developed, may contribute greatly to national wealth.

The mountains, however, have been a barrier to travel and commerce. Furthermore, the acreage which may be devoted to crop raising is much smaller than it would be if there were more level land. Despite this handicap, there is much room for an increase in farm production.

Jungles may be cleared away, dry lands may be irrigated, improved farm implements may be introduced. If this is done, more food crops can be grown and provision can be made for a much larger population.

In Latin America there is a variety of races and nationalities. Several of the countries are predominately In-



CONTRASTS IN TRANSPORTATION. These llamas do not seem to resent their modern competitor. They are still used in parts of Latin America, but the airplane has no equal as a conqueror of mountains and jungles

dian. One is almost totally Negro. In the majority there is a mixture of races, particularly of Spanish and Indian peoples. In only three, Argentina, Uruguay, and Costa Rica, are nearly all the people of the white race.

Most of the countries have land systems under which the bulk of the fertile land is divided into large estates owned by a few wealthy families. The soil is tilled by propertyless renters or farm workers who receive but a pittance for their labor and who live in perpetual poverty. This system of land ownership has probably done more than anything else to check progress in Latin America.

Educational standards are very low in most of these countries. This does not mean that the people are unintelligent. Many of them who have had opportunities for schooling are among the best educated people in the world. Such persons are to be found in every Latin American country.

During recent years there has been marked educational progress in a number of countries. More and better schools are being provided. This is a very hopeful development.

All the Latin American countries are republics. In form the governments are democratic, but in practice democracy does not often work well.

It cannot possibly do so when such large numbers of people are without any schooling. In many of the nations real power is in the hands of large landowners, wealthy businessmen, and army officers. Some of the countries, however, seem to be growing more democratic. As the people become better educated, they will exercise more influence and strengthen democracy.

The Latin American countries are largely agricultural. There is relatively little manufacturing in most of these lands. Industrial progress, though, is being made. Much of this development is made possible by help from the United States. Americans have made and are making investments in mines, oil fields, factories and in transportation facilities. Loans are being made to assist in the industrialization program.

During earlier years relations between the United States and the Latin American republics were not very friendly. Our southern neighbors were afraid that the United States, with its vastly superior power, would gain too much control over them.

One complaint was that the industrial developments carried on by American companies, though helpful in many ways, were not an unmixed blessing. It was argued that these

companies paid low wages and did not contribute as much as they should have to the raising of living standards.

During recent years there have been fewer complaints. Our Good Neighbor policy has tended to check criticism and to remove suspicion.

The only country with which we have had trouble is Argentina. Tension has existed on both sides. We have said Argentina's government is fascist in character and that it sympathized with our enemies during the war. The Argentines say that the United States has tried to influence their elections and turn other Latin American countries against them.

The quarrel between the United States and Argentina has obstructed efforts to bring about closer cooperation among the American nations. It had been planned last year that a conference should be held to work out a permanent military pact against any future aggressor in this hemisphere.

The United States, while strongly favoring this plan, has delayed action on it because of its opposition to the Argentine government. In recent weeks, however, our relations with Argentina appear to have improved, and the postponed conference may possibly be held sometime this year.

NOTICE

The American Observer is devoting nearly all its pages this week to a discussion of the 20 Latin American republics. Our next issue will contain the usual news articles and special features. The monthly test, announced for this paper, has been postponed a week.

ARGENTINA POP: 14,000,000 AREA: 1,072,746 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Meat  Cereals  Wool	BOLIVIA POP: 3,500,000 AREA: 416,040 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Tin  Silver  Antimony	BRAZIL POP: 45,000,000 AREA: 3,286,170 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Coffee  Cotton  Hides, skins	CHILE POP: 5,237,000 AREA: 286,396 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Copper bars  Nitrate  Gold, silver	COLOMBIA POP: 9,800,000 AREA: 439,828 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Coffee  Gold  Petroleum	COSTA RICA POP: 725,000 AREA: 23,000 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Coffee  Bananas  Gold
CUBA POP: 4,770,000 AREA: 44,218 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Sugar  Tobacco  Manganese	DOMINICAN REP. POP: 1,990,000 AREA: 19,332 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Sugar  Cacao  Coffee	ECUADOR POP: 3,171,000 AREA: 115,830 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Rice  Cacao  Rubber	GUATEMALA POP: 3,450,000 AREA: 48,290 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Bananas  Coffee  Chicle	HAITI POP: 3,500,000 AREA: 10,700 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Coffee  Sugar  Sisal	HONDURAS POP: 1,200,000 AREA: 59,161 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Bananas  Gold, silver  Coffee
MEXICO POP: 21,155,000 AREA: 758,258 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Gold, silver  Lead  Copper	NICARAGUA POP: 1,380,000 AREA: 57,915 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Gold  Coffee  Bananas				
PANAMA POP: 631,700 AREA: 28,575 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Bananas  Cacao  Meat	PARAGUAY POP: 1,100,000 AREA: 149,807 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Quebracho  Meat  Hides				
PERU POP: 7,395,000 AREA: 482,258 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Copper  Cotton  Petroleum	EL SALVADOR POP: 1,935,000 AREA: 13,176 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Coffee  Gold, silver  Sugar				
URUGUAY POP: 2,200,000 AREA: 72,153 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Wool  Meat  Hides	VENEZUELA POP: 4,000,000 AREA: 352,143 Sq. Mi. EXPORTS:  Petroleum  Coffee  Gold				

Latin America

Mexico

MEXICO and the United States are friendlier today than ever before. President Truman's visit to that country last month added to the good feelings, and his visit is being returned this month by President Miguel Aleman.

As the two leaders discuss the problems of their countries, President Aleman undoubtedly will tell of the changes which he is trying to bring about in Mexico.

Improvements in farming are essential, because two-thirds of the 21 million people are farmers, and most of them live in poverty. With better tools, they could earn more money by producing larger crops of wheat, beans, rice, tomatoes, potatoes, henequen (for hemp), cotton, tobacco, coffee, and cocoa.

By adding to her factories, Mexico could provide more jobs for city workers. Her present industries turn out textiles, shoes, flour, cement, bricks, paper, and iron. She could lengthen this list by making greater use of her generous supply of minerals—silver, molybdenum, mercury, antimony, lead, zinc, gold, copper, and petroleum.

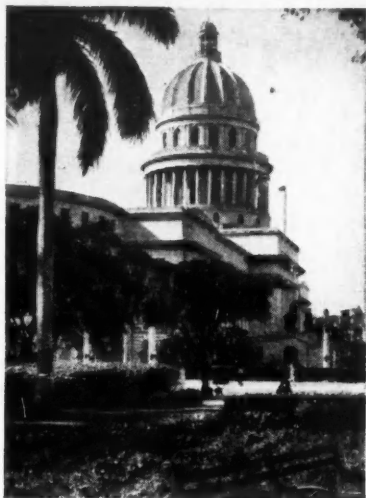
Mexico also needs a modern network of highways and rail lines. Some of her communities are so isolated that it is difficult for them to send out their products or to bring in goods purchased from other parts of the nation. However, it may take a number of years to reach all of them with roads and rails, because Mexico is a fairly large country—about the size of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Nevada combined. In the regions of barren desert and rugged mountains, construction will be especially difficult.

It will take a large-scale health program to conquer tuberculosis, dysentery, smallpox, malaria, and other diseases which are common. The need for the government's strong campaign against illiteracy can be seen in the fact that almost half of the people cannot read and write.

Some people think the government, in dealing with these problems, is taking too much control over the life of the nation. Others say that only a strong, active government can succeed in bringing greater progress to Mexico.



Baseball is popular in Mexico



Cuban Capitol in Havana EWING GALLOWAY

Cuba

CUBA, known as the "Pearl of the Antilles," is one of the richer and more beautiful islands of the world. Its scenic beauty, ideal all-year-round climate, and gay, hospitable people attract many thousands of American vacationists every year.

This island is a little smaller than Pennsylvania, and most of it is gently rolling country. More than half of the land is suitable for cultivation. Cuba's two outstanding products are sugar and tobacco, both of which are sold in large quantities to us.

The Cubans, who number 4¾ million, produce sizable amounts of coffee, bananas, pineapples, and many other fruits. With their excellent soil and climate, they are in a position to raise almost anything they desire. They will be better off when they produce a greater variety of crops.

It is estimated that about half of the Cubans are white (mostly Spanish), a fourth are Negroes, and a fourth are of mixed descent. Even though 40 per cent cannot read or write, this situation is being rapidly improved. Nearly all children now attend school.

Half of the Cubans live in cities and towns. They work in factories and businesses directly or indirectly connected with the sugar, tobacco, tourist and other leading industries. Large numbers of the country people work on the great plantations which dominate the island's agricultural life.

American companies own most of the sugar plantations, as well as the larger industrial and mining enterprises in Cuba. They pay better wages than the owning groups in the majority of other Latin American countries, but the farm families who work and live on the plantations are still far from well off. Their conditions, however, are gradually improving.

Cuba depends largely upon the United States for her prosperity. This country is her best customer, taking most of the sugar and tobacco exports. When the American demand is active, the prices of these products advance and the people get along well, but when our purchases fall off, the Cubans suffer.

Until a few years ago, Cuba frequently had political revolutions. Lately, though, her elections have been peaceful, and she appears to be making real democratic strides. That country worked in close cooperation with the United States during the recent war, and it is still doing so.

Haiti

HAITI, the only independent Negro nation in the New World, occupies the western part of Hispaniola, an island east of Cuba. Her neighbor, in the eastern section of the island, is the Dominican Republic.

Haiti is about the size of Maryland, and the population is more than half again as large. The country is mountainous and much land is useless.

Most of the 3½ million Haitians live on farms, and since there is so little arable land, the farms are small and the country is badly overcrowded. Under such conditions the people are extremely poor. They raise quite a little food, but living standards are low and diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, are widespread.

Most of the children have little or no schooling, and 85 per cent of the population is unable to read and write. The country is a republic, but the uneducated majority of the population has no part in running the government.

There are few industries and practically no manufacturing. The chief exports are coffee, cotton, sugar, and sisal (for rope). Before the war, Europe was Haiti's chief customer; today the United States is.

There have been many revolutions in Haiti. In 1915, during one of these uprisings, the United States Marines landed on the island to maintain order. They stayed for 19 years, during which time the United States practically ran Haiti's government.

During American occupation, roads were built and sanitary conditions were improved. The Haitians, however, resented rule by foreigners, and other Latin-American countries disliked the idea of our occupying the



Haitian mother and child

country. In 1934, in accordance with our Good Neighbor Policy, the Marines were withdrawn and American control ceased.

Since that time Haiti has been relatively peaceful, but it is not prosperous and, due to the fact that the country is so overcrowded, the prospects for higher living standards are not bright.

Haiti's needs are the same as those of most other Latin American countries. If industries could be established and if factories should be put into operation, the people would benefit greatly. This would give employment to many at higher wages than are now received from farming. It would also help if numbers of Haitians could migrate to other lands. Unless such developments take place, the Haitians will continue to live in abject poverty.



Scene in the Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic

THE people of the Dominican Republic call their country "the cradle of America." Their capital, whose name was recently changed from Santo Domingo to Ciudad Trujillo, was the first city in this hemisphere. It is said to be the location of Christopher Columbus' tomb. It was there that the first church, the first hospital, and the first university in the New World were established. The city contains a wealth of historic interest.

Sharing the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, the Dominican Republic is twice the size of her next-door neighbor but has a much smaller population. There are slightly less than 2,000,000 Dominicans as compared with 3½ million Haitians.

Whereas the Haitians are nearly all Negroes, only about 20 per cent of the Dominicans are. More than 40 per cent of the Dominicans are white (mostly Spanish), and the remainder are of mixed descent.

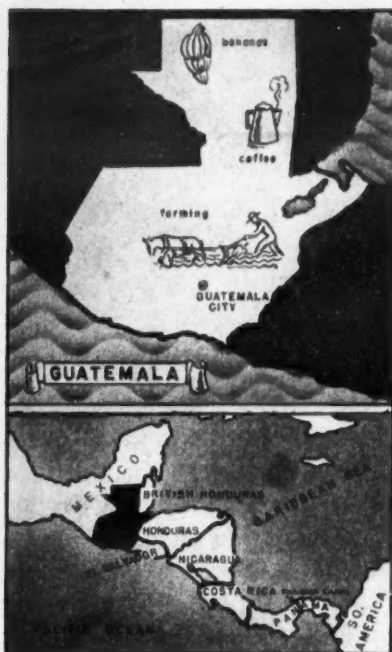
The agricultural systems of these island neighbors are also very different. The large number of small farms in Haiti provides a sharp contrast to the great plantations and cattle ranches in the Dominican Republic. But both countries are alike in that they are mountainous and tropical.

Since the Dominicans are not so crowded as the Haitians, their standard of living is somewhat higher. But they still lag far behind the more advanced countries of the world. For example, it is estimated that half of the population cannot read or write, and even today only 40 per cent of the children attend elementary school.

The Dominican Republic does most of her trading with the United States and England. She sells considerable sugar to the British, and cocoa beans, coffee, and molasses to us.

The nation has had a stormy history, with frequent revolutions. There has been a great deal of trouble with Haiti, an overpopulated neighbor, many of whose people have tried to emigrate to the Dominican Republic. These efforts have been repelled by force.

For a number of years, the Dominican government has been dictatorially controlled by General Rafael Trujillo. He had the capital's name changed to his own, and he has used forceful methods to stifle democracy. Even the discussion of politics is prohibited. The Dominican government, however, has worked on cooperative terms with our country.



Guatemala

GUATEMALA is an Indian republic. Nearly all the inhabitants are either Indians or of mixed Indian and white stock. The few white people live chiefly in Guatemala City, the beautiful and picturesque capital, surrounded by banana plantations and well known to American tourists. The population of the country is about that of Indiana; the area is somewhat smaller.

Most of the Indians live on farms or in villages. They speak their own Indian dialects and see little of city life. They raise corn, wheat, beans and rice for food, but they are very poor and do not live comfortably. The women make blankets, textile materials, pottery, and other handmade products which are sold at the town markets.

On large plantations, managed by wealthy owners, bananas and coffee are produced and sold to foreigners. The workers on these estates are poorly paid. Peonage, or forced labor, was formerly practiced, and though it is now forbidden by law, it has not been completely stamped out.

Four-fifths of the people are unable to read or write. Only a fourth of the children are attending school, but this situation may improve, since many new schools are being established.

Though Guatemala is mountainous, there is much fertile land, and production might be greatly increased. If wages were raised, if better farming methods were introduced, and if more attention were given to the education and health of the people, the country could be made more prosperous and living standards would be improved.

During the last few years there has been a promising industrial development. Flour mills have been built and there are a number of factories producing textile goods. Farmers and villagers have come to the towns to take jobs in the mills and factories, and their incomes are higher than those obtained by farm workers.

The Guatemalan government is friendly to the United States, and it is working for unity among the American republics. At present it is trying to draw the Central American countries more closely together.

Honduras

HONDURAS is one of the "Banana Republics" of Central America. Her 1,200,000 people have depended greatly upon this tropical fruit for their livelihood. When the banana crop is good, everyone in Honduras benefits and is happy. When it is bad, depression and hardship overtake the people.

Gradually, that small country is seeking to develop its other resources, so it will not have to rely so completely upon the success or failure of one crop. It is fortunate in having a better-than-average mineral supply. Fairly large quantities of lead, zinc, iron, coal, gold, silver, and copper are to be found in its soil. It also has dense forests, containing valuable mahogany trees.

Honduras compares in size with our state of Michigan. The great banana plantations are located in the region along the Caribbean seacoast. Although miracles of engineering have made this hot, humid area habitable, most of the people prefer to live in the mountain areas of the country. Here there are many fertile valleys, and the climate is more agreeable.

The people of this land are Indian, Spanish, and a mixture of the two. Spanish is the official language; but Indian dialects are still spoken in many places. In the chief banana regions, English is the principal language, since Americans operate the plantations.

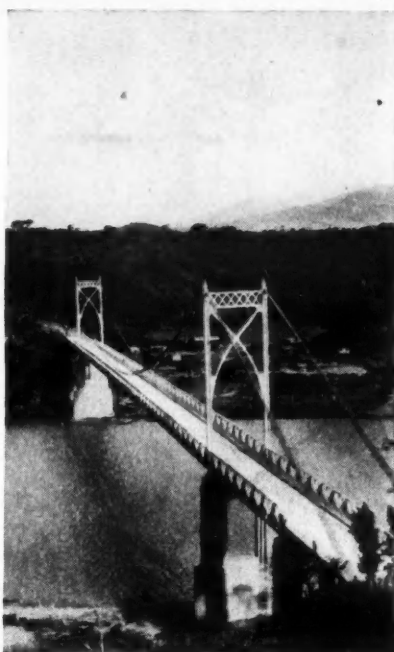
Two-thirds of the Hondurans cannot read or write. Obviously, therefore, the majority of people cannot take an active part in democratic government. Political affairs are controlled by a small minority.

To achieve progress, Honduras must speed up its educational program. It must work harder to develop its mineral wealth. Everything possible should be done to improve transportation. There are a few railroads, but not one goes to Tegucigalpa, the capital in the mountain region. The airplane is being widely used, but more roads and railways are also needed.

Honduras carries on a large part of her trade with the United States, and the two countries get along well together.



Agricultural students in Honduras



Pan American Highway bridge in El Salvador

El Salvador

DEEP in the hills and jungles of Central America lies El Salvador, smallest of the Central American republics. This little country supports a population of nearly two million in an area about the size of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined. Two big mountain ranges run through El Salvador's territory, leaving the people comparatively little living space.

But the Salvadorans, the majority of whom are mixed Indian and white, are energetic, and they make good use of what space they have. A nation of farmers, they cultivate every possible bit of land. They are responsible for a full three per cent of all the coffee grown in the world.

In addition, their farms produce corn, rice, and meat for home needs and sufficient quantities of sugar, tobacco, and indigo (used for dyes) to sell to other countries. From abroad El Salvador buys cloth, manufactured goods, machinery, and some food items. Most of her foreign trade is with the United States.

El Salvador is not a land of great estates. While there are some wealthy families with large holdings, a considerable proportion of the country's agricultural output comes from small farms.

Proud and hard-working, the Salvadorans are eager to improve their country, and they can point to progress in several directions. They have made their capital, San Salvador, a handsome, modern city. In recent years, they have raised the standards of health and education a great deal.

As the Salvadorans become still better educated, they hope to achieve genuine democracy in their country. After enduring years of dictatorship, they ousted President Hernandez Martinez in 1944. His downfall did not bring free government, however. When elections were held in 1945, there was only one candidate on the ballot—General Salvador Castro. Since he has been President, he has interfered frequently with the people's liberties.

El Salvador was among the Latin American nations which instantly followed our country in declaring war against Japan, Germany, and Italy. It is still friendly with us.

Nicaragua

NICARAGUA is about the size of Georgia, with a third as many people. The country is mountainous, and only three per cent of the land is cultivated. In the inhabited areas the population is dense and the people are poor.

Only half of the adults can read and write, but most of the children are in school and educational standards are being raised. There are three universities, and many members of the more fortunate classes are really well educated.

The population is chiefly of mixed Indian and white stock, though there are a number of Negroes along the Caribbean seacoast. Spanish is the national language.

Corn, rice, sugar and bananas are the more important food crops. Cocoa, tobacco and cotton are also produced. Gold mining is an important industry. There are few manufacturing industries and little opportunity for factory employment. That is why incomes and standards of living are low.

The poverty-ridden and uneducated small farmers, who make up most of the population, have little influence in politics, and the country is usually ruled by a small group of large landholders. They are opposed by a small, well educated professional class, and bitter conflicts develop at times between these groups.

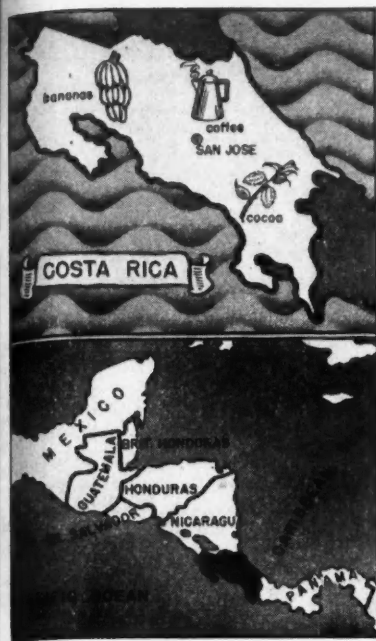
For a long time the United States was unpopular in Nicaragua because, at a time of revolution, our Marines occupied the country to maintain order. Hostility toward us declined after our military forces were withdrawn in 1931.

During recent years relations between the United States and Nicaragua have been friendly. This is an important fact, inasmuch as our country may wish at some time to build a canal across Nicaragua, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

A Nicaraguan canal, it is argued, could handle some of the heavy traffic now passing through Panama, and would be badly needed if the Panama Canal should be damaged in time of war. Such a project would also encourage industrial development in Nicaragua and would thus improve the living standards of the people.



Group of Nicaraguans pose



JOHNSON

Costa Rica

COSTA RICA, although a small country in area and population, has distinguished herself in a number of ways. For one thing, her people are among the best educated in Latin America. That country has long spent more money for schools than for military purposes. No other American republic follows such a policy. All Costa Rican children go to schools, and most of the people are literate.

Then, too, Costa Rica is mostly a country of small farms instead of great estates. The majority of farmers are landowners. Wealth in that country is more evenly distributed than in most other South and Central American nations. Great extremes of poverty and wealth do not exist there, and the country has a large middle class.

As a result of their widespread educational opportunities, the Costa Ricans have been more successful than most other Latin Americans in making democracy work. They have had the same Constitution for 75 years, and there has been very little violence connected with the nation's elections and politics. The capital of the nation is at San Jose.

More than three-fourths of Costa Rica's 725,000 people live on a high plateau located in the central part of the country. The majority live on farms and their major crops are coffee, bananas, and cocoa. They sell large quantities of these products to the United States and other countries. They also raise corn, sugar cane, rice, and tobacco.

There is some mining and industry in Costa Rica, but most of the people make their living from the soil. There are only several small cities in the country, including San Jose, with its 40,000 population. Eighty per cent of the Costa Ricans are white, mostly Spanish. The rest are Negroes and Indians.

The United States and other American republics are jointly operating an important agricultural research station in Costa Rica. Its purpose is to help modernize the farming systems of all Latin American countries.

Panama

PANAMA, the curved ribbon of land which links South and Central America, is best known as the home of one of the world's most vital waterways—the Panama Canal. In normal times, some 5,300 ships a year travel the 50-mile passage which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The Canal, as well as the land for five miles on either side, is under American control. For the use of the Canal Zone, the United States pays more than \$400,000 a year to Panama.

Besides bringing in this sum of money, the Canal furnishes employment to many Panamanians. Almost a third of the country's 631,000 people live in and around the two big Canal Zone cities of Colon and Panama City. The majority of them in that area earn their living through work connected with the Canal.

The rest of the people follow a variety of occupations. Because so little land is cleared for cultivation, there are few farmers, but they manage to raise sizable quantities of bananas, cocoa beans, corn, rice, and beans. In Panama's forests, there is work for lumbermen. People on the coasts and near the Canal work for businesses which serve tourists. Hunting and fishing take up the time of Panama's Indians, who make up one-tenth of the population and who live in isolated settlements.

The country is slightly larger than West Virginia. Only nine of our states are smaller than Panama. It is a hot, tropical land of mountains and jungles, with hundreds of rivers and streams. Once plagued by yellow fever, malaria, and other tropical ills, it is now one of the most disease-free countries in the tropics. In education, Panama ranks with the best of the Latin American countries. Chiefly, she needs some industries and more cleared land on which to grow food.

Because of the Canal, Panama has unusually close ties with the United States. Our government no longer interferes in Panama's affairs as it once did, but we take a keen interest in what she does, and she depends on our Army and Navy for protection. Her present government appears to be advancing democracy.



PUBLISHERS PHOTO SERVICE

Going through the Panama Canal

Venezuela

LIFE in Venezuela revolves around oil. Oil is the country's one great resource, the wellspring of its hopes for prosperous development, and the key to its relations with other countries. Venezuela has so much oil that her output rivals Russia's as the second largest in the world. Ninety per cent of this "black gold" is owned by British, American, and Dutch companies, but Venezuelans profit in the form of employment and taxes.

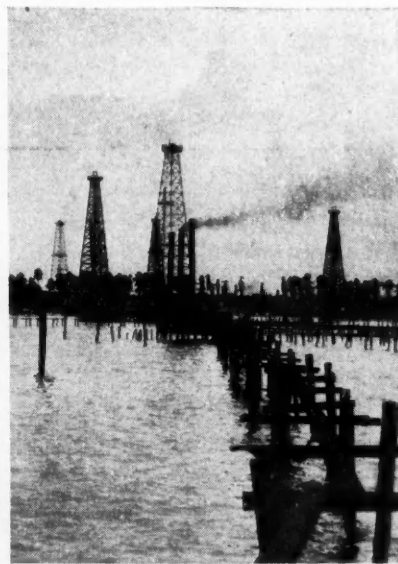
Although Venezuela is a fairly big country—her territory is slightly larger than Texas and Oklahoma combined—much of her land is so mountainous and jungle-covered that it is of little use. Over 90 per cent of the 4,000,000 Venezuelans live on the coast, and a large part of the back country is completely unexplored.

The great oil wells are located near Lake Maracaibo in the extreme northwest of Venezuela. Between this area and Caracas, the capital, are farmlands which yield corn, coffee, and cocoa. Venezuela grows enough coffee and high-grade cocoa for substantial sales to other countries, but she produces too little food for her own needs. Only about a fifth of the people are farmers.

Venezuela mines a little gold, coal, and mica, and in recent years she has begun to develop some industries. There are thriving textile, glass, and hardware factories around Caracas and other coastal cities. Yet industry is still in its infancy. Most of the people, practically all mixed Indian and white, have a low standard of living.

Political storms have been common in Venezuela through the years. It was here that Simon Bolivar, Latin America's George Washington, was born and started his career of liberation. Here, too, some of Latin America's most tyrannical dictatorships have flourished.

Now, however, Venezuela seems to be on the road to democracy. Her last election, held in the fall of 1946, was democratic. The present government is following a "middle-of-the-road" course. It is seeking to raise the living standards of the poorer people without hurting business interests. It is opposed both by the extreme radicals and the very wealthy groups.



GENDREAU

Oil is the lifeblood of Venezuela



FIELDS

Colombia

COLOMBIA is neither the largest country in Latin America nor the richest, but she is one of the more progressive. The poverty-stricken tenant farmers, the revolutions, and the dictatorships, so common in the neighboring states, have no place in Colombia. Her people are comparatively well off, and their political life is generally democratic and orderly.

Furthermore, the Colombians have a high standard of education and culture. The Constitution provides that at least 10 per cent of the national budget must be spent for education. Bogota, Colombia's beautiful mountain capital, is a city where art and learning flourish—for many years it was known as "the Athens of America."

Were it not for its geographical problems, the country might be still more advanced. As it is, Colombia is handicapped by the fact that her coastal regions are too hot and tropical and her inland sections too mountainous. Most of her territory, which is bigger than Texas and California combined, lies among lofty Andean peaks, which makes transportation difficult. The nearly 10 million Colombians are trying to overcome this problem by expanding their airplane service.

Despite transportation difficulties, Colombia's land has a great deal to offer. The soil of the high mountain valleys is excellent, yielding all kinds of crops. Colombia grows enough food for her own people as well as large quantities of coffee and bananas to be sold in other lands.

The country is also rich in minerals. Gold, emeralds, and platinum are more abundant here than anywhere else in the hemisphere. Colombia also has coal and oil, but she has not yet begun using them to develop large-scale industries. At present, she gets almost all her textiles, automobiles, and machinery from the United States and several other foreign nations.

The majority of people in Colombia are a mixture of Spanish and Indian, although there are quite a number of pure Spanish, Indians, and Negroes. There are no deep-seated political conflicts among these groups, and elections are held regularly without violence.

Trade and political relations between Colombia and the United States are on a very satisfactory basis. We purchase the bulk of all she sells to other lands.



Ecuador

VISITING Ecuador is like stepping into another world—a world untouched by the 20th century. The 3,171,000 people of Ecuador are largely Indian and they live among their picturesque mountains in much the same manner as their ancestors. Most of them still speak Quechua, their ancient Indian tongue.

Their country is one of the most beautiful in the world. The lofty peaks of the Andes are strikingly impressive here. Furthermore, the few cities—Quito and Guayaquil, for example—have a unique charm because of the mixture of Indian and old Spanish art which their buildings represent.

Although they know nothing of modern methods, the Ecuadorians are good farmers. Fully 90 per cent of them till the soil, producing corn, cocoa, and vegetables and fruits. Large quantities of cocoa are sold to the United States and other lands. Some rice, sugar, and bananas are grown, and recently the Ecuadorians have tried to produce rubber.

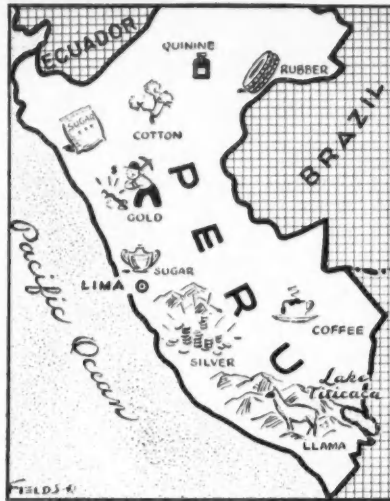
Besides their crops, they have considerable numbers of cattle, sheep, and horses. Their forests yield kapok, cinchona bark (source of the important medicine quinine), and balsa wood. Airplane manufacturers from all over the world look to Ecuador for this unusually light-weight wood.

Ecuador has done almost nothing to develop either mining or industry. Experts say that the country has substantial supplies of gold, copper, silver, and other metals as well as petroleum, but the Ecuadorians have left all but the petroleum untapped. The few small mills and workshops in Ecuador specialize in flour milling and processing balsa wood.

Like such other outstandingly Indian countries as Peru and Bolivia, Ecuador is a land where a small number of Spanish and other white people are wealthy and powerful and the masses of Indians are downtrodden. Most of the people cannot read or write, but 50 per cent of the children are now going to school at least a few years.

Although elections take place in Ecuador, the country cannot be called democratic. It had a revolution in 1944 which ousted the conservative government and placed a socialist leader in power.

In 1945 a new Constitution was adopted. Under it, the President is elected for a four-year term by people sufficiently educated to vote.



Peru

PERU, where the fabulous Incan civilization once thrived, is about the size of our states of Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico combined. It still has a large Indian population. Full-blooded descendants of the Incas account for nearly half of the country's 7,400,000 inhabitants, but wealth and power are concentrated in the hands of the white people and those of mixed descent.

The Indians, who are farmers and shepherds for the most part, are extremely poor. Only half of them can read and write, and only half of their children now attend school.

It was the miserable condition of the Indians which gave rise to the People's Party in Peru. For a long time, this political group has been fighting for reforms—a better distribution of land among the people, more free education, and "really democratic government." Although it was outlawed until very recently, it is now the largest party in the country. It is sharply opposed by the well-to-do groups in Peru.

If the leaders of the poorer people and the owning classes will compromise their differences, the country should advance rapidly, for it has fine natural resources. The centuries of mining have not exhausted the rich supplies of gold, silver, and copper in Peru. In addition, there are ample quantities of coal, petroleum, and lead. Peru leads the world in the production of vanadium (used for making high-grade steel). Most of this mineral wealth has thus far been developed by American and British interests.

Besides her mines, Peru has a few manufacturing plants around such major cities as Lima, the capital. Whereas the mines are largely foreign owned, the new factories are almost wholly Peruvian property.

In agriculture, Peru is not so well endowed. Mountains and deserts cover so much of the land that only 1½ per cent of the total area yields food crops. Nevertheless, modern agricultural tools and methods, plus extensive irrigation projects, could substantially increase the farm output.

England and the United States are the leading customers for Peru's petroleum, metals, cotton, and sugar, and we sell food, machinery, cotton goods, and automobiles to the Peruvians.

Political relations between Peru and our country are favorable at the present time. Argentina is trying, however, to bring that country under her influence and leadership.

Bolivia

BOLIVIA is a land of tin mines and revolutions. Tin mining is the one big industry in this landlocked republic, high in the Andes, and revolutions are as common as elections in our country. There have been more than 60 revolts in that land during the last 100 years.

Bolivia is also a land of Indians. Her rugged territories, which cover an area equal to Texas plus California, are inhabited by some 3½ million people. Only two per cent of them are white. Fifty-four per cent are pure Indian, and the rest are of mixed Indian and white blood. Most of the Indians keep to their ancestral customs and avoid modern ways.

The great majority of Bolivians live in dismal poverty. Because the land is so rough and mountainous, only a few can earn their living by farming. Their meager crops of corn, potatoes, and grain cannot keep the whole population well nourished. The majority of those who do not live off the land work in the tin mines, where they earn pitifully low wages. The average Bolivian miner receives less than a dollar a week, and usually toils 12 hours a day.

The miserable condition of the poor is the chief reason why Bolivia has known so much unrest. Again and again, the people's wretchedness has led them to rebel against the government. The masses are so uneducated—only about one person in seven can read and write—that they have always been easy prey for ambitious dictators.

The last Bolivian dictator was overthrown and killed last summer. Since then a new President has been elected to office. Because most Bolivians are totally uneducated, only a small proportion of the population can vote, but the new government appears to be as democratic as possible under the circumstances. It has promised to work in behalf of the downtrodden Indian miners and farmers.

After what happened to Bolivia's dictator last summer, the Peron government in Argentina refused to sell much-needed food to that country. So Bolivia and Argentina are not on very friendly terms.

Our relations with Bolivia, on the other hand, are most satisfactory. The United States is trying to help Bolivia raise the living standards of her Indian population through loans and technical assistance.



Bolivian woman sorting tin waste

Chile

CHILE, the "shoelace" country, is about 2,500 miles long and has an average width of 100 miles. The total land area is larger than Texas, but the Andes take up much of its space.

Chile's population is 5,237,000. While many of the people are mixed Indian and white, there are more Spanish and other Europeans than in most South American countries. Seventy-five per cent of the people have at least enough education so that they can read and write.

The northern desert-like region of Chile contains nearly all the world's natural nitrates, as well as rich deposits of copper. Southern Chile is wild and stormy, valuable chiefly for its thick forests. The central region has beautiful scenery and ideal climate, and most Chileans make their homes in this area. Here are located the capital city of Santiago and the picturesque port of Valparaiso.

Chile has good land and resources, but most of her people are wretchedly poor. The mine workers in the north, as well as the farm laborers who work on the great estates in central Chile, are paid wages that barely keep them alive. In recent years, the government has attempted to improve working conditions, to provide land for small farmers, to modernize farming methods, and to develop many new industries.

Chile holds elections and has a fairly democratic government. There is complete freedom of speech and press in the country. The great political conflict is between the owning groups, who feel that the government is too radical, and the workers and tenant farmers, who are urging much swifter reforms.

The United States is carrying on an extensive foreign trade with Chile, still buying a great deal of her copper and nitrates, and Americans have invested heavily in that country's mines. The Chilean government is seeking to be friendly both with its next-door neighbor, Argentina, and with the United States. If a serious crisis should develop between our country and Argentina, it is impossible to predict which side Chile would take.

The Chilean leaders worked closely with us during the war, but Argentina is doing everything possible to line that country up on her side. For one thing, she is promoting increased trade with Chile, so the two nations will depend heavily upon each other.



Chilean boy delivering groceries

Uruguay

URUGUAY is the smallest, but one of the most prosperous, of the South American nations. About the size of South Dakota, she has a population of more than two million—most of them of Spanish and Italian origin.

Uruguay's leading resource is her rich, fertile, well-watered land which is favored with a mild climate. Almost nine-tenths of the nation is suitable for farming and grazing, with the great majority of it given over to stock raising. Uruguay's vast herds of cattle, sheep, horses, and pigs provide most of the nation's income.

Most of her working people tend animals or work in factories which prepare animal products for sale. Large amounts of live animals, meat, and hides are sold each year to other nations—chiefly to Great Britain and the United States in normal times. Uruguayan farmers also produce enough grain, fruits, and vegetables to supply the whole population.

Even Uruguay's coastal land is a money-maker. Her Atlantic shores are dotted with resort centers, and the beaches are favorite vacation spots for the people of many South American countries.

For a long time, Uruguay found it necessary to buy manufactured goods from foreign countries. In more recent years, and especially during the war, the government has given help to the Uruguayan businessmen who sought to make the nation less dependent upon other countries for manufactured goods. As a result, new industries have thrived and are now supplying an increasing amount of the country's needs in finished products, such as textiles, metals, chemicals, and some iron and steel. One of the chief



handicaps of Uruguayan industries is the country's almost complete lack of mineral resources.

Uruguay has a 50-year record of fairly stable, democratic government. It is considered one of the world's most progressive governments. It provides free education for all, from kindergarten through university and professional schools. As a result, about 80 per cent of the people can read and write. There is free medical care.

Except for recent difficulties with Argentina, Uruguay has been on friendly and cooperative terms with all American nations. The Uruguayan leaders, like many of our own, are very much concerned over the "fascist" character of the Argentine government and its efforts to develop great military power within the next few years.

Paraguay

PARAGUAY has been the scene of frequent and costly conflicts. Again and again the Paraguayans have carried on wars which brought them to the edge of ruin. In one conflict where they were outnumbered twelve to one, they fought until nine out of every ten men in the country had been killed. Some weeks ago, they began fighting again—a civil war this time.

A rebel group has been trying to overthrow the government of Higinio Morinigo. Morinigo, who has ruled



Paraguay almost as a dictator for six years, has no love for democracy. The rebel leaders claim that they want to introduce reforms, but no one knows just what their policies would be if they came to power.

Paraguay, a country the size of California, is badly in need of reforms. For years her political life has been dominated by military men who practiced totalitarian government. Under their rule, almost nothing has been done to spread education or improve the poorer people's standard of living.

The Paraguayans, who now number nearly a million, are almost all a mixture of Spanish and Indian. Most of them work at farming, stock-raising, or forestry. There is not much good land in the country and crops are too small to keep the nation's population well fed.

Paraguay produces enough tobacco, yerba mate (a fine South American tea), timber, and preserved meat to sell considerable quantities to other nations, but she remains poor because of her lack of industry. The only mineral resource she has is oil and that has not been developed.

Because of her many wars with her neighbors, Paraguay was for a long time a nation without friends. Today, however, she has fairly close ties with Argentina. The government of President Juan Peron has encouraged Paraguay to depend on Argentina for food and financial aid. Peron is friendly to Morinigo, and it is believed that his government has been helping the Paraguayan dictator in the civil war.

The fact that Paraguay's foreign trade moves out of the country by way of the Paraguay and Parana rivers, via Buenos Aires, has strengthened the relations between Paraguay and Argentina. Except for her association with Argentina, Paraguay appears to have little interest in the affairs of the world. She has gone along with the Pan American unity movement, but she has not stood out in this connection.

Brazil

BRAZIL is larger in area than the United States, but her population is less than a third as great as ours. Vast in area and rich in resources, the nation is for the most part undeveloped. Only one per cent of the land is under cultivation at present.

The cultivated area lies along the Atlantic, and in that region most of the population dwells. Located there are the great modern cities, including Rio de Janeiro, the capital, and Sao Paulo, a center of industry. Much of the interior is a vast jungle, through which flows the Amazon, the world's largest river.

Brazil is the only Portuguese-speaking country of Latin America. It was founded by the Portuguese, and three-fifths of the people are of that ancestry. About an eighth of them are Negroes, and a fourth are of mixed Negro and Indian race.

Highly favored by nature, Brazil has about a fourth of the world's iron, and valuable deposits of manganese, copper, lead, and coal. Brazil also is the world's greatest coffee producer, and cotton, sugar, and cocoa are leading crops.

With abundant resources, Brazil should be a prosperous nation, but the natural riches have not been put to work. If mines could be developed, more roads and railways built, more factories established, and more schools planted, the people would enjoy a higher standard of living, and Brazil would become a really great nation.

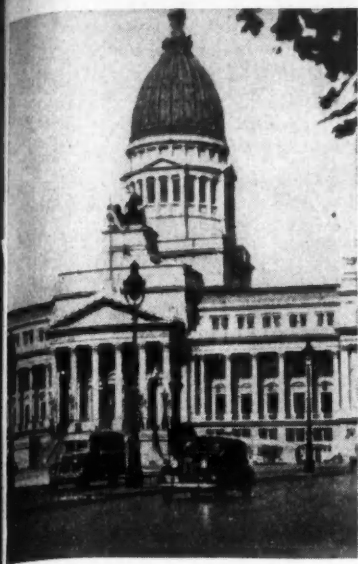
The government is now trying to encourage people to move into the center of the nation and develop the vast resources there. But before this area can be heavily populated, transportation facilities must be built, and sanitation must be developed. A fair amount of progress has been made in this direction during the last few years, but the bulk of the job remains to be done.

Most of the people do not have enough education to take part in a democratic government very effectively. There is more democracy in Brazil today than during any other time in recent years. The present government, however, is not tackling the nation's problems very well, and there is much discontent and unrest.

Brazil is a firm friend of the United States, and fought on our side in the war. She gets along well with her neighbors, although Argentina feels that she is a rival and thus is doing everything possible to outstrip her industrially and militarily.



Drying coffee beans in Brazil



Argentine Capitol in Buenos Aires

Argentina

ARGENTINA has a great deal in common with the United States. She is big, rich, and enterprising. Her great cities, like Buenos Aires, are as modern as any in this country. Her people, almost all of whom are of European descent, are well educated and enjoy a high standard of living.

Among Latin American countries, Argentina is second only to Brazil in size. Her territory is more than a third as large as ours, but her population is still comparatively small. Although immigrants have arrived in considerable numbers in recent years, Argentina still has only slightly more than 14 million inhabitants.

Most of Argentina's wealth is in the soil. The broad, grassy plains, or pampas, which make up the larger part of the country, yield a wheat crop four-fifths as large as our own. In addition, it supports vast herds of sheep and cattle. Argentina produces all kinds of food in abundance and derives much of her income from selling her farm products to foreign nations. The Argentines are less fortunate in their supply of mineral resources. For one thing, they lack the coal and iron needed for heavy industry. This has not kept them, however, from developing busy manufacturing centers. By importing coal and developing water power at home, they have built up important textile, meat packing, flour milling, and tobacco processing plants.

Argentina's political life had been fairly peaceful and democratic for many years until 1943, when a sudden revolution placed a group of Army officials in control of the government. Since then, the country has been the problem child of the Americas. Its present leaders are accused of having been sympathetic with the Axis nations during the war.

The United States has been worried about Argentina's activities and future intentions. Under President Juan Peron, that country is seeking to become a strong military power and to line up neighboring countries under its control. Peron won the presidency in a free election last year, but he is curbing democracy and interfering with the people's liberties in many ways. Relations between that country and ours, however, are less strained now than they have been since the Peron group came into power.

Story of Week

Safety in the Coal Mines

It has been a little more than two weeks since the tragic death of 111 coal miners in Centralia, Illinois. Since that time, a drastic campaign to provide greater working safety in the nation's mines has been launched. More than 500 mines were closed down by order of the federal government, and many will remain shut until they have taken the proper safety precautions.

This campaign will not bring back the lives of the 111 men, nor will it wipe out the sorrow and hardship imposed upon their families. These miners will not have died in vain, however, if their terrible fate shocks the nation into doing what should have been done long ago to provide adequate safety for the hundreds of thousands of men whose working conditions at best are anything but pleasant.

The most discouraging fact is that federal, state, company, and union officials apparently have known for some time that the Centralia mine was un-



PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Andrea Mead of Rutland, Vermont, will represent the United States in the 1948 Winter Olympics to be held in Switzerland

safe. John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers, places all the blame on Secretary of the Interior Krug, who is now operating the mines for the federal government. Opponents of Lewis, on the other hand, claim that he, too, knew the facts about the Centralia mine, but did nothing to publicize them.

Greece and Turkey

American officials are seeking to assure the world that our country, if it gives financial and military aid to the governments of Greece and Turkey, does not intend to disregard the UN.

Warren Austin, American delegate, has told the UN Security Council that the aid program is to be temporary in nature. He says that its only purpose is to preserve peace in the Balkans until the United Nations can perform that task.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, headed by Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, has approved a definite statement that we agree to stop our project of aiding Greece and Turkey if the United Nations decides to take over the job. Congress is debating whether to support this statement if it agrees to the loan itself.

Most newspapermen in Washington believe that the majority in Congress will approve the loan, since there is a widespread feeling among the nation's

lawmakers that Greece and Turkey must be kept free of Communist and Russian control. The big question is, to what extent should we cooperate with the UN in achieving this aim?

U. S. in Pacific

Early this month, the UN Security Council granted our country trusteeship over more than 600 Pacific islands formerly held by Japan. In managing the islands we shall, officially, be acting for the United Nations, but our government will have complete power to fortify them, control sea and air traffic near them, and keep secret our military operations in their vicinity.

Loyalty Investigation

The investigation to determine the loyalty of all federal employees is expected to get under way very soon. The test of loyalty, according to President Truman, will be whether or not the employees belong to, or are co-operating with, "totalitarian, communist, or fascist organizations."

A government worker suspected of connections with one of these groups which are working against democracy will be given a hearing before a special board. If he is found guilty, he may have his case reviewed by a higher group. If the final decision is against him, he will lose his job.

In making the loyalty investigation, J. Edgar Hoover's FBI and the Civil Service Commission will play important roles.

Truman Urges Price Cuts

President Truman has begun an active campaign in the effort to persuade businessmen and industrialists to reduce their prices. He and his advisers contend that so many corporations have made fat profits during the last year, they can afford to do some price-cutting. The President refers to such facts as these:

The National City Bank of New York reports that 16 great banking companies made an average profit of



King Paul, who took Greek throne after brother's death, and Queen Frederica

20 per cent in 1946 as compared to 10 per cent in 1945.

Thirty-six cotton goods businesses enjoyed a profit rate of 24 per cent last year compared to 8 the year before.

Some 840 manufacturing concerns saw their 1946 earnings go up 37 per cent over what they were in 1945.

The President recognizes that not all business and industrial firms are in a position to lower their prices, but he insists that many are. If the favored ones do not cut prices voluntarily, he says, workers will fight for higher wages, consumers will not be able to buy what is being produced, and depression will come again.

Moscow Parley

The Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers has had its ups and downs during the weeks it has been in session. At times, there has seemed to be no hope of reaching any kind of an agreement on Germany, and at other times the prospects have been slightly more encouraging. As we go to press it appears that some progress, at least, will be made, but many questions will remain to be solved later on.

There seems to be more chance of working out a compromise on the amount of reparations than on the other big issues. Unless a last minute miracle occurs, there is little prospect of agreement among the Big Four on uniting Germany, politically and economically.

SMILES

The boss of a mid-town hotel noticed some employees parading out in front during their lunch hour.

"What are you guys picketing for?" moaned the boss. "Our contract still has three weeks to run."

"Does it hurt," asked one of the men, "if we practice?"

★ ★ ★

Bricklayer: "I would like to work here, but I can't find a place to park."

Employer: "I'm sorry, you won't do. We want only bricklayers with chauffeurs."

★ ★ ★

Little Susan, who is three years old, was "helping" her dad at his work bench in the basement. Finally he tired of her incessant chatter, and he asked her to be quiet for a little while.

"I don't have to," she replied importantly. "I'm a woman."

★ ★ ★

Teacher addressing seven-year-old boy: "What troubles did the Pilgrims have when they landed at Plymouth Rock?"

Boy: "I don't know—I've got my own."

First teacher: "Do you know the three words used most often by students?"

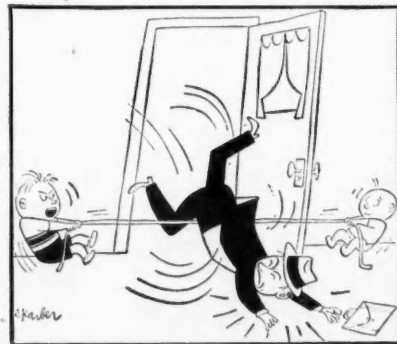
Second teacher: "I don't know."

First one: "That is exactly right!"

★ ★ ★

Dad: "What is this '60' on your report card?"

Son: "It's not the room temperature."



SPARKER IN COLLIER'S

"Gee, dad, this makes four nights in a row—don't you ever catch on?"

Study Guide

Latin America

1. How does the population of all Latin America compare with that of the United States?
2. What are some of the important natural resources of this region?
3. Name the South American country which is largest in area. Name the smallest.
4. Which of these countries produces the most coffee? Oil? Tin?
5. What are the two countries which occupy the island of Hispaniola?
6. If a second Atlantic-to-Pacific canal is ever built across Central America, what country will it probably cut through?
7. In what South American nation has a civil war been taking place in recent weeks?
8. Name two Latin American countries which have made outstanding progress in education.
9. Name a country of Latin America in which Spanish is not the official language.
10. From which of these countries do American airplane manufacturers get balsa wood?
11. Which Latin American president is coming to the United States this month?
12. List two ways in which the Panama Canal benefits the country through which it passes.
13. What is the leading product of Central America?
14. What are Cuba's two outstanding products?
15. In what country were the first church, first hospital, and first university in the New World established?

Discussion

1. If you had the opportunity to live for a year in a Latin American country, which would you choose? Give your reasons.
2. In your opinion, what is the outstanding obstacle to progress in Latin America? Explain.
3. In what countries of this region do you consider the prospects of progress to be most promising? Why?

Pronunciations

(In most cases, we pronounce the words in their anglicized form.)

Hispaniola—his'pān-yō'lah
 Nicaragua—nik'ah-rah'gwah
 Paramaribo—pār'ah-mār'i-bō
 Lima—lē'mah
 Guayaquil—gwī'ah-kēl'
 Quito—kē'tō
 Asuncion—ah-sōon'syōn (y as in yet)
 Montevideo—mōn'tē-vid'ē-ō
 Cayenne—kī-ēn'
 Caracas—kar-rah'kahn
 Rio de Janeiro—rē'ō dā zhah-nā'ō
 Bogota—bō'gō-tah'
 La Paz—lah pahs'
 Antilles—ān-tīl'ēz
 Maracaibo—mah'rah-kī'bō
 Miguel Aleman—mee-gel' ah-lay-mōl'
 Higinio Morinigo—ē-hēn'yaw maw-rē-nē-gaw
 Tegucigalpa—tā-gōō'sē-gahl'pah